*[Translation]*

**Indira Awas Yojana in M.P.**

2611. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living below poverty line in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh who have no houses or land to construct houses as per the last survey;

(b) the number of persons who have lands but needs assistance to construct houses;

(c) the criteria being followed for selection of beneficiaries in the State;

(d) the Central assistance provided under Indira Awas Yojana to Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98 so far;

(e) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sought increase in the Central Assistance under the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Central Assistance provided under Indira Awas Yojana to Madhya Pradesh so far during 1997-98 is aorund Rs. 39 crore.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Union Government has provided Additional Central Assistance to the tune of Rs. 4 crores for earthquake affected vicitims of Jabalpur District.

*[English]*

**Loss in NHPC**

2612. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Idle Chamera unit causes Rs. 100 crore loss to NHPC" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated 13.7.197;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a number of equipments/machines imported/locally purhcased are not operative and the detailed estimated loss in this account and steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the present status of investigations into reported irregularities committed in purchase of high valued equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) : Yes Sir. The news item mentions about the outage of the Unit-2 of Chamera Hydro-electric Project Stage-I and about faulty construction of the tunnel carrying water to the generating units. The facts are as follows :

All the units of Chamera Project were running satisfactorily since commissioning in April 1994 and no major problems relating to turbine and generators were experienced. However, operational problem with generating Unit-2 are being experienced since June 1996 when the load on the machine exceeds 90 MW.

Experts from GE Canada and GEC Alsthom and M/s. SNC/Acres were deputed to look into the problems and set right the machines from time to time. Experts from BHEL have been assisting on project authorities in resolving the problem. A team of experts comprising representative from Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Central Water Commission (CWC) and Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) was constituted by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) to look into the problem and to make recommendations for improved performance. The committee's recommendations for rectification of Unit-2 are in line with the action being taken. Further investigations and assessments would be continued to ascertain the cause of trouble in Unit-2 during lean season of October-April when the system will permit such assessments.

(c) There were no unsual problems with any of the except the break down of a unit of GIS switchgear and the radial gates anchoring system which have been rectified/ replaced. The Head Race Tunnel (H.R.T) of 6.4 k.m was constructed by Indian contractors. It is not true to say that the generating units are hit by boulders. A concrete piece was found wedged before entrance to turbine on two occasions and this is not indicative of defect or danger to the HRT. This phenomenon is also neither uncommon nor unusual and in a similar manner concrete pieces were found in the case of some other projects which were completed more than a decade back and the tunnels are intact. It is not true that NHPC suffered a revenue loss of about Rs. 100 crores on account of problems in generating unit-2 in the last one year. The design energy of station is 1664 Million Units (MUs). The target of annual generating fixed by the CEA was 1700 MUs. The actual generation from Chamera Stage-I in 1996-97 was 1884 MUs. The excess generation from Chamera Stage-I over the design energy and annual target is 220 MUs and 184 MUs respectively.

(d) The turbines and generators of Chamera-I Project were procured from M/s. Marine Industries Ltd. and

M/s. GE Canada. The leading Canadian manufacturers, after negotiations by the Price Negotiating Committee appointed by the Government of India. All other equipments were purchased by the usual tendering process from Canadian firms. No specific irregularity has been reported in the procurement of these equipments.

*[Translation]*

**Supply of Sleepers**

2613. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a policy for purchasing of PSC and Steel Turnout sleepers for future requirements of the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have now taken a decision to change old steel and cement sleepers by reversing its earlier policy decision;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether life of concrete sleepers is five times more than that of the wooden sleepers;

(f) whether orders for concrete turnout have been placed with nine firms @ Rs. 70,000/- (including HTS wire) per set when the infrastructure capability available with the manufactures of concrete sleepers in the country is only for 1000 sets per month;

(g) whether the orders have also been placed for the supply of 4,500 wooden turnouts @ 1,80,000 per set costing Rs. 100 crores when its life span is substantially less than the concrete sleepers; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per present policy as far as possible only concrete turnout sleepers sets are being used on Indian Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The estimated life of Concrete sleepers is about 30-40 years whereas avarage life of wooden sleepers is 10-12 years.

(f) Orders for 8000 sets of Concrete turnout sleepers have been placed on 8 firms at the rate of Rs. 49,999/- (+Rs. 8400/- MODVAT) per set and 1000 sets of concrete turnout sleepers on one firm at the rate of Rs. 47,635/- (+Rs. 8400/- MODVAT) per set. The rates are excluding cost of HTS Wire. The above quantity is to be supplied in five years.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Proceedings have been completed for placement of the concracts for supply of Sal Wooden Special Sleepers on following Govt. Corporations :

| | In cums. | Rs. in crores |
|---|---|---|
| 1. MMTC (A Corporation of UOI | 43,000 | 81.28 |
| 2. MARCOFED (A Corporation of Govt. of Nagaland). | 9,000 | 16.61 |
| Total | 52,000 | 97,89 |

The above ordered quantity of wooden sleepers includes the following types of sleepers:-

1. Sleepers for Bridges.
2. Sleepers for Diamond Kings and Spl. layouts.
3. Sleepers for Lines in Bombay Sub-urban section.
4. Sleepers for Rail Joints
5. Sleepers for Turnout.

The use of wooden sleepers on bridges, at diamond crossing and special layouts, in Lines at Bombay Sub-urban section, at Rail Joints etc. is unavoidable as use of other types of sleepers including concrete sleepers there, is technically not feasible. Wooden turnout sleepers are to be used mostly for maintenance of about 52000 sets of wooden turnouts sleepers presently laid in the Tracks.

*[English]*

**Shortage of Funds for Doordarshan**

2614. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the Ministry of Finance for extra funds to save Doordarshan from resource crunch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to avoid shortage of funds for Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has approached the Ministry of Finance to agree to phasing out of the Non-Lapsable Fund (NLF) support to Non-Plan expenditure so that adequate provision is available for Plan funding of Doordarshan.